

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/063 W

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R 202134Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5965

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 1052

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, CA, MZ

SUBJ: CANADIAN SECSTATE TO VISIT WEST AFRICA

REF: OTTAWA 947

SUMMARY:

1. CANADIAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
ALLAN J. MACEACHEN PLANS VISIT FIVE AFRICAN COUNTRIES
FROM APRIL 14-25. PRESENT PLANS ARE FOR HIM TO SPEND
TWO TO THREE DAYS EACH IN LAGOS, ABIDJAN, ACCRA, YAOUNDE
AND OUAGADOUGOU, IN THAT ORDER (THUS PROVIDING ROUGH
BALANCE BETWEEN COMMONWEALTH ANGLOPHONE AND FRANCOPHONE
AFRICAN, THE LAST STOP BEING ADDED FROM SAHELIAN RATHER
THAN LINGUISTIC MOTIVES). GOC AIMS IN VISIT APPEAR TO
BE TO DEMONSTRATE AN INCREASED CANADIAN INTEREST IN
AFRICAN PROBLEMS, HIGHLIGHT CANADIAN AID EFFORTS IN
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AFRICA, PARTICULARLY THE SAHEL, AND TO CONTRIBUTE

TO THE PERCEPTION (PARTICULARLY AMONG CANADIANS) OF AN INDEPENDENT CANADIAN ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS OUT FROM UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE US. ADDITIONALLY, MACEACHEN HOPES FOR FIRST-HAND BRIEFINGS AT HIGHEST LEVELS ON AFRICAN APPROACHES TO FORTHCOMING UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON DEVELOPMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. THIS WILL BE MEACEACHEN'S FIRST MAJOR FOREIGN TOUR SINCE BECOMING SECSTATE. HIS OTHER FOREIGN SALLIES HAVING BEEN CONFINED TO BRIEF VISITS TO CARACAS (FOR THE LOS CONFERENCE), TO ROME (FOR THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE), TO THE UN, WASHINGTON (ACCOMPANYING PM TRUDEAU), TO LONDON (FOR COMMONWEALTH FOOD CONFERENCE), AND, AS OF THIS WRITING, HE IS VISITING BOSTON AND NEW YORK FOR SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS. CANADIAN PRESS HAS SEEN AFRICAN TOUR AS INDICATION THAT MACEACHEN, WHO HAS MADE LITTLE IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC, "MAY AT LAST BE BECOMING MORE VISIBLE." PRESS COMMENTS HAVE STATED THAT MANY IN EXTAFF HAVE MISSED THE PUBLICITY OF THE DAYS WHEN HIS PREDECESSOR, MITCHELL SHAPR, WAS IN CHARGE.

3. EXTAFF OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS CONFESS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO "RUB MACEACHEN'S NOSE" IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. IN ADDITION TO PERSUADING HIM TO MAKE APRIL VISIT TO WEST AFRICAN, THEY HAVE PLANS FOR HIM TO VISIT EAST AFRICA IN JANUARY 1976, SPECIFICALLY TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA WITH STOPOVERS EN ROUTE IN DAKAR AND POSSIBLY LAGOS AGAIN, HAVE SECURED HIS APPROVAL FOR GAUVIN MISSION OT PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES (REFTEL, AND CONVINCED HIM TO GIVE AS HIS SECOND FORMAL FOREIGN POLICY PUBLIC PRO- NOUNCEMENT A SPEECH ON "CANADA AND AFRICA" IN TORONTO FEBRUARY 19 (HIS FIRST SPEECH HAVING BEEN HIS WINNIPEG TALK ON US-CANADIAN RELATIONS). THEY THUS APPPEAR IN FACT TO HAVE GAINED A CERTAIN PRIORITY FOR AFRICA IN MACEACHEN'S PUBLIC TIME. (THEY MAY ALSO HAVE GAINED SOME PRIORITY FOR AFRICA IN THE SCHEDULE OF PM TRUDEAU WHOSE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF NYERERE AND KAUNDA GAINED AT THE 1973 COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETING HAS APPARENTLY DISPOSED HIM FAVORABLY TOWARD EXTAFF SUGGESTIONS THAT HE VISIT EAST AFRICA IN 1975 OR 1976).

4. MACEACHEN'S EXPERIENCE IN PUBLIC LIFE DATES CONTINUOUSLY FROM HIS ELECTION OT COMMONS IN 1953. HE HAS A REPUTATION AS AN EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SPEAKER AND SKILLED PARLIAMENTARIAN, ESPECIALLY GIFTED IN CORRIDOR

DISCUSSIONS AND IN EFFECTING THE COMPROMISES REQUIRED FOR SHEPHERDING LEGISLATION THROUGH COMMONS. HE HAS ACQUITTED HIMSELF WELL AS, SUCCESSIVELY, MINISTER FOR LABOR, HEALTH AND WELFARE, AND MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION. OPINIONS ABOUT HIS MANNER ARE CONTRADICTORY, VARYING FROM "OUTGOING" TO "SHY AND RETICENT," PROBABLY REFLECTING HIS DEGREE OF SELF-CONFIDENCE IN THE SUBJECT MATTER BEING DEALT WITH. THE RETICENT SIDE OF HIS MANNER IS USUALLY DOMINANT IN HIS HANDLING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IN WHICH HE IS A NEOPHYTE, KNOWS IT, AND CONSEQUENTLY KEEPS HIS PROFILE LOW. MACEACHEN'S SUCCESS IN CONTACTS WITH AFRICAN LEADERS (PARTICULARLY FRANCOPHONES, SINCE HIS FRENCH IS POOR) IS LIKELY TO DEPEND HEAVILY ON THEIR PERCEPTION OF HIM AS ONE GENUINELY INTERESTED IN THEIR PROBLEMS AND PREPARED TO HELP, WITH NO POWER-BALANCE OR NO-COLONIALIST STRINGS ATTACHED. MACEACHEN'S OWN INCLINATIONS, BUTTRESSED BY HIS EXPERIENCE IN "SOCIAL HUMANITARIAN" MINISTRIES, HAVE MADE HIM A STRONG SPOKESMAN WITHIN CANADA FOR INCREASED ASSISTANCE TO LDC'S. HOPEFULLY, FROM THE GOC VIEWPOINT, THE GENUINENESS OF HIS INTEREST WILL PENETRATE THROUGH THE LOW PROFILE AND BE RECOGNIZED BY HIS AFRICAN HOSTS. PORTER

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